08/822397

DIVISION-CONTINUATION PROGRAM APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL FORM

Recket Number	Anticipated classification of this application Class Subclass	Prior Application Examiner			
VID-00203/29	358	N. Flynn	2602		

To the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks:

This is a request for filing a ■ continuation □ divisional application under 37 CFR 1.60, of pending prior application Serial No. 08/488,691, filed on June 8, 1995, of Barry H. Schwab and John G. Posa for VIDEO INPUT SWITCHING AND SIGNAL PROCESSING APPARATUS.

- 1. In Enclosed is a copy of the latest inventor signed prior application, including the oath or declaration as originally filed. I hereby verify that the attached papers are a true copy of the latest inventor signed prior application Serial No. 08/488,691 as originally filed on June 8, 1995, and further that all statements made herein of his own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such wilful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.
- 2. II The filing fee is calculated below:

For	Number Filed	Number Extra	Rate	Fee
Total Claims	17 - 20 =	0		-0-
Independent Claims	1 - 3 =	0		-0-
Multiple dependent claim(s), if any				-0-
Trianspie de pendent comme (1777 - 1117)	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Basic Fee		\$385
		Total Filing l	Fee	\$385

3.	☐ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment
to	Deposit Account No. 07-1180. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

4. A check in the amount of \$385.00 is enclosed.

5.		Cancel in t	this appli	ication o	original claims					application	
calc	ula	ting the filin	g fee. (A	At least o	ne original inde	pendent	claim must be retain	ned for fili	ng pu	rposes.)	

- 6. Amend the specification by inserting before the first line the sentence: "This application is a continuation, □ division, of application Serial No. 08/488,691, filed June 8, 1995.
- 7.
 ☐ Transfer the drawings from the pending prior application to this application and abandon said prior application as of the filing date accorded this application. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed for filing in prior application file. (May only be used if signed by person authorized by §1.138 and before payment of base issue fee.)

a. New formal drawings are enclosed.		
b. Priority of application Serial No.	filed on	11
is claimed under 35 U.S.C. 119.		
(against mi)		

□The certified copy has been filed in prior application Serial No. ______, filed _____.

8. The prior application is assigned of record to
9. A preliminary amendment is enclosed.
10. ■ Also enclosed is a copy of the Verified Statement.
11. The power of attorney in the prior application is to:
John G. Posa GIFFORD, KRASS, GROH, PATMORE, ANDERSON & CITKOWSKI, P.C. 280 N. Woodward Ave., Suite 400 Birmingham, MI 48009
 a. The power appears in the original papers in the prior application. b. Since the power does not appear in the original papers, a copy of the power in the prior application is enclosed. c. Address all future communications to:
John G. Posa GIFFORD, KRASS, GROH, PATMORE, ANDERSON & CITKOWSKI, P.C. 280 N. Woodward Ave., Suite 400 Birmingham, MI 48009 (313) 913-9300
(date) (signature)
Signature is: inventor(s) assignee of complete interest attorney or agent of record filed under §1.34(a)
Express Mail #EH262327238US

N THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In continuation of:

SCHWAB et al

Serial No.: 08/488,691

Group No.: 2602

Filed: June 8, 1995

Examiner: N. Flynn

For: VIDEO INPUT SWITCHING AND SIGNAL PROCESSING APPARATUS

Continuation application:

SCHWAB et al

Attorney Docket: VID-00203/29

For: VIDEO INPUT SWITCHING AND SIGNAL PROCESSING APPARATUS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-referenced application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

- 1. (Amended) A system for integrating a plurality of television signal sources into a cohesive viewing environment, the system comprising:
- a [standard broadcast-frequency] <u>first</u> television input and an associated multi-channel tuner operative to selectively tune a [broadcast] <u>first</u> television program;
- a [cable] <u>second</u> television input and an associated multi-channel tuner operative to selectively tune a [cable] <u>second</u> television program;

GIFFORD, KRASS, GROH, SPRINKLE, PATMORE, ANDERSON & CITKOWSKI, P.C.

280 N. WOODWARD AVENUE, STE. 400, BIRMINGHAM, MICH. 48009-5394 (810) 647-6000

an output to deliver a video program to display device;

- 2 -

a user command input device;

means for storing information representative channel designations; and

system controller operative to perform following functions in response to a user command[s]:

channels re-assign user-defined and assign designations to channels present on the first and second television [any of the associated] inputs, and store the designations for future use, and

selectively route a television program from [any of] the first and second television [associated] inputs to the output for viewing on the display device, the switching of a particular input being a function of the user-defined channel designations.

- 2. (Amended) The system of claim 1, at least one of [cable tuner] television inputs further including a the descrambler module for premium services.
- The system of claim 1, wherein at least one of 3. the television inputs is a cable television input. [further including:
- a direct-broadcast-satellite (DBS) television input and an associated multi-channel tuner operative to selectively tune a DBS program, the controller being further operative to assign and store user-defined DBS channels designations and selectively route the DBS program to the output for viewing on

Atty Docket: VID-00203/29 - 3 - 72003sh

the display device in accordance with the channel designations.]

Claim 9, line 3, before "higher" insert --a--.

10. (Amended) The system of claim 9, including supplemental information associated with [one eye of the viewer to facilitate] stereoscopic viewing.

Remarks

Questions regarding this application may be directed to the undersigned Attorney using the telephone or facsimile numbers provided.

Respectfully submitted,

By:

John G. **F**osa Reg. No. 37,424

Gifford, Krass, Groh, Sprinkle, Patmore, Anderson & Citkowski 280 N. Woodward Ave., Suite 400 Birmingham, MI 48009

(313) 913-9300

FAX (313) 913-6007

Date: March 20, 1997



VIDEO INPUT SWITCHING AND SIGNAL PROCESSING APPARATUS

Field of the Invention

This invention generally relates to video equipment, and more particularly, to a converter arrangement operative to configure a plurality of input sources into an integrated operating environment.

Background of the Invention

Television viewers are often faced with complicated wiring requirements for integrating the various signal sources into their systems. This situation was made worse in part by the Federal Cable Regulation Act of 1992, which caused some cable systems to discontinue carriage of local Broadcast stations that insist on receiving a persubscriber fee to allow retransmission of their signals. As a result, cable subscribers on these systems must provide their own antennas in order to receive signals from these broadcast stations.

With the availability of signals from direct-broadcast satellites, many consumers will consequently have three different signal sources to choose from when viewing,

with the added confusion that all three of these sources may provide channels with the same numerical designation. A further complication is the integration of cable converters with the public switched telephone network, for billing special event programming and various other payper-view schemes.

Summary of the Invention

The invention comprises an apparatus integration of a plurality of television signal sources into a single system. Internal provisions include a standard broadcast-frequency tuner as well as a cable The cable tuner may optionally include provisions tuner. for a descrambler module for premium or pay-per-view services, which may be implemented either as an internal circuit board, an internal plug-in module, or an external plug-in unit. A third input is provided as a directbroadcast-satellite tuner, which itself may be implemented as an internal circuit board or as an internal or external plug-in unit. As is the case for the cable tuner, provisions are included for a separate descrambler unit implemented as an internal circuit board or as an internal or external plug-in unit. As a further option, additional inputs may be provided for other uses, such as VCR playback signals. Outputs are provided both for baseband audio and video, and also through an RF modulator.

20 A system controller, which accepts control signals from a standard infrared-type hand-held remotecontroller, handles such tasks as input selection and channel switching, and allows the user to reassign channel designations at will, even including input switching as 25 part of the channel selection. The controller also integrates signals for an optional telephone interface, for pay-per-view billing or other uses. When required, controller is further capable of enabling descrambling circuitry as appropriate for each signal source. manner, specialized modules (as, for example, MPEG decoders 30

25

and the like) may be enabled or have their operating parameters configured so as to process digitally encoded signals. In a preferred embodiment, the unit may be provided with additional tuner provisions associated with any of the various inputs, for receiving signals in which a primary signal is on one channel, and a secondary signal is on a different channel, as, for example, in the case of a stereoscopic broadcast system in which one channel carried the "left eye" signal, and a second channel carried the "right-eye" signal.

Brief Description of the Drawings

FIGURE 1 is a block diagram which illustrates the main features of the invention; and

FIGURE 2 is a block diagram which shows signal separation and recombination means associated with providing supplemental program information.

<u>Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiment</u>

The invention is explained by way of reference to Figure 1, which shows the main features of a system having input switching provisions. Broadcast-frequency signals 2 from a standard antenna are received at the broadcast tuner 4. These signals are demodulated into baseband audio and video signals, which then are provided to the audio/video switching matrix 22. Cable system signals 6 are provided to the cable tuner 8, which as an option may include a descrambler module 10; this may be implemented either as an internal circuit board, an internal plug-in module, or an external plug-in unit, and this unit would be compatible

10

20

with the scrambling system used on the particular cable system. Depending upon the circumstances, one or more of the various tuners may interface to a decoder to receive other specialized information such as teletext or closed-captioning, though not referenced in the figures.

Optional satellite-receiver signals 12 provided to the satellite tuner 14, which, like the cable tuner, also may include an optional descrambler unit 16, implemented through a similar range of methods as described above for the cable tuner. In some installations, the satellite receiver service would include its own tuner and/or descrambler means, in which case the signals would be input to the cable converter through one of several direct-connection inputs (not shown); these inputs would also allow for the integration of other sources, such as VCR playback signals. All of these input sources are demodulated and provided to the audio/video switching matrix as baseband audio and video signals, enabling signal routing within the audio/video switching matrix to be implemented as a baseband video "bus." The selected signal from the switching matrix is provided at the output 24; these signals are also optionally provided to an RF modulator 26, for output as modulated signals 28.

In the preferred embodiment, the system provides for the association of one channel with one or more other 25 channels carrying supplemental information. For example, channel might carry the "left-eye" view stereoscopic signal, while a second channel carried the "right-eye" view. Such additional channels alternatively provide the following types of supplemental 30

10

15

20

25

information, though the entire range of available information is by no means limited to this list:

- picture enhancement information (as suggested by several of the proposed HDTV systems) to provide wide-screen or other effects;
- video-game related information, including information related to additional players;
- digital data, such as statistical information about players in a sporting event or pricing/ account information associated with a shopping channel;
- additional audio information, including information which provides higher fidelity, stereophonic/surround-sound effects, foreign language audio, "sing-along" lyrics to accompany a popular music concert, etc.
- teletext or closed-captioning information.

In this embodiment of the invention, a primary channel will typically carry "primary" program information along with additional information used by the system for directing a second tuner to a secondary channel; other channels could be similarly associated. The information relating a primary channel to one or more secondary channels carrying supplemental information may be derived in various ways. For example, the primary channel may carry a pointer to the additional channel(s), for example, in a subcarrier, or as part of synchronization as during vertical retrace. Such a pointer may be carried more or less continuously by the primary channel, or may be

broadcast more infrequently, for example, at the start of a program. As an aid in the scrambling and/or encryption of a program, information relating the programs my be downloaded and locally stored on an authorized basis. As a further measure, a "channel-hopping" scheme may be used, wherein different related channels are used at different times, with only authorized viewers being provided with the overall plan.

As an alternative to the broadcasting information relating channels, codes may be published in a 10 format similar to the currently available VCR Plus system now in use for VCR programming. That is, in addition to a code which contains start/stop times and a single channel number, the same or a different code may also contain multiple channels designations, certain of which provide 15 the supplementary information. As in the current implementation of VCR Plus, such code may be entered in the system's hand-held remote control for reception by the receiver 30 depicted in Figure 1. Other means receiving and storing these codes are also possible, including downloading from a personal computer, and so forth. Regardless of the technique used to derive the additional programming information, on-screen programming techniques may be used to enable a user to program in the information so as to label it, for example, to designate a 25 particular channel of the decoder to identify the station call letters or to provide more descriptive information.

As shown in Figure 2, these features may be implemented with a signal separator 52, feeding primary and 30 secondary signals to individual tuners 54A and 54B

15

interfaced to an optional descrambler 10. A signal recombiner 56 is preferably used prior to the audio/video switching matrix 24, providing a combined signal output at It will be appreciated by those of skill in the art of audio/video mixing and control that other implementations may be used to carry out the broad goal of the invention to integrate multiple inputs to provide a cohesive enjoyment environment. For example, if desired, provisions may be included for an additional internal or external plug-in module (not shown), with associated outputs, to provide modified signals for these special In addition, the system may be adapted to provide multiple outputs enabling a user to record the separate programs associated with all participating channels for subsequent playback. Such playback may occur, for example, through the system comprising the invention, through separate inputs and using single recombiner 56 shown in Figure 2 where advantageous.

a system controller 32. This controller may receive input signals from an infrared remote-control receiver 30, or from any of a variety of user input devices, such as keyboards or computer interfaces (not shown). In addition, it is capable of communicating with the public switched telephone network, through an optional telephone interface (not shown), enabling the cable converter unit to interface with systems which provide pay-per-view services or other specialized billing and program-ordering schemes.

Another feature of the invention is the ability to manipulate channel assignments by way of the system

controller. For example, the user may choose to assign cable converter channels 1, 2, and 3 to broadcast channels 2, 4, and 7; the user might choose to assign cable converter channel 4 to cable system channel 40, and cable converter channel 5 to direct-broadcast satellite channel 15. In this way, the user is able to select any channel line-up desired, including the channels selected from all sources available in any order, and with any channel numerical designation. Although not shown, it is to be understood that system controller 32 interfaces to an appropriate memory device for storing these channel assignments, including the user-defined designations.

In an alternative embodiment, optional MPEG decoders or other digital signal processors (not shown) may be enabled and/or have their operating parameters configured under control of the system controller, using a similar modular approach to that described herein above with reference to descrambler modules.

What is claimed is:

1. A system for integrating a plurality of television signal sources into a cohesive viewing environment, the system comprising:

a standard broadcast-frequency television input and an associated multi-channel tuner operative to selectively tune a broadcast television program;

a cable television input and an associated multichannel tuner operative to selectively tune a cable television program;

an output to deliver a video program to display device;

a user command input device;

means for storing information representative of channel designations; and

a system controller operative to perform the following functions in response to a user commands:

assign and re-assign user-defined channels designations to channels present on any of the associated inputs, and store the designations for future use, and

selectively route a television program from any of the associated inputs to the output for viewing on the display device, the switching of a particular input being a function of the user-defined channel designations.

- 2. The system of claim 1, the cable tuner 25 further including a descrambler module for premium services.
 - 3. The system of claim 1, further including:
 - a direct-broadcast-satellite (DBS) television

5

input and an associated multi-channel tuner operative to selectively tune a DBS program, the controller being further operative to assign and store user-defined DBS channels designations and selectively route the DBS program to the output for viewing on the display device in accordance with the channel designations.

- 4. The system of claim 1, further including a telephone interface to facilitate an automatic account transaction associated with a pay-per-view program.
- 5. The system of claim 1, further including:
 an input to receive a previously locally stored
 video program, the controller being further operative to
 selectively route the program to the output for viewing on
 the display device.
- 6. The system of claim 1, the output including separate baseband audio and video outputs.
- 7. The system of claim 1, further including an input to receive a digital program in data compressed form and means for selectively digitally decompressing the program prior to delivery to the display device.
 - 8. The system of claim 1, wherein one or more additional channels carry supplemental program information, the system being further capable of automatically determining at least one of the additional channels and tuning that channel so as to output the program along with

the supplemental information.

- 9. The system of claim 8, the additional channel carrying supplemental information to facilitate higher-resolution viewing of the program.
- 5 10. The system of claim 9, including supplemental information associated with one eye of the viewer to facilitate stereoscopic viewing.
 - 11. The system of claim 8, the additional channel carrying supplemental audio information.
- 12. The system of claim 8, wherein the system is capable of automatically determining at least one of the additional channels by extracting a supplemental channel information from a program channel.
- 13. The system of claim 12, wherein the supplemental channel information is carried by the program channel on a repetitive basis in a non-viewable portion of program signal.
- 14. The system of claim 12, wherein the supplemental channel information is carried by the program 20 channel only at the start of a particular program.
 - 15. The system of claim 12, wherein the supplemental channel information changes during the receipt

of a particular program to which supplemental information may be associated.

- 16. The system of claim 8, wherein the system is capable of automatically determining at least one of the additional channels by receiving a code containing additional channel information.
- 17. The system of claim 8, further including a plurality of outputs associated with a program and supplemental information, enabling a user to record a program received from a program channel and one or more additional channels.

SBC-01402/03 50806sh

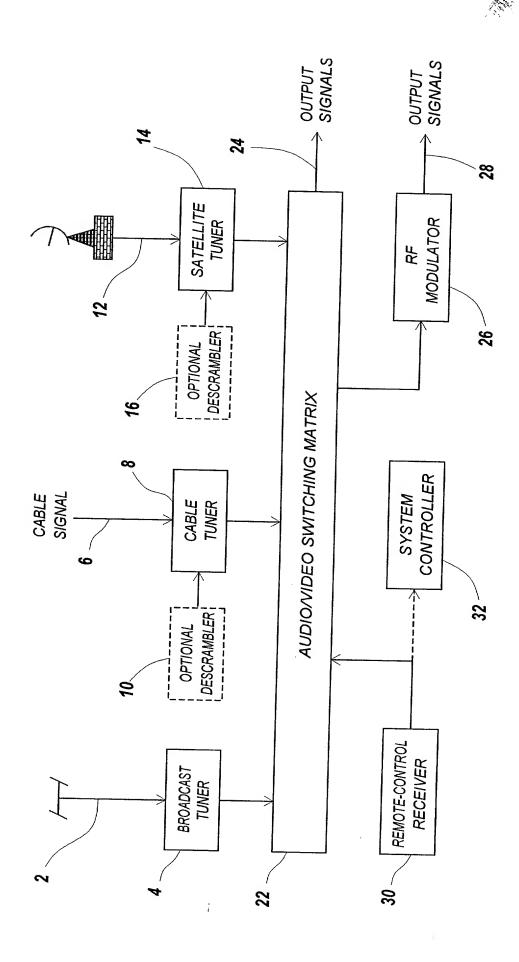


Abstract of the Disclosure

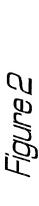
An apparatus integrates a plurality of television signal sources into a cohesive audio/video environment. Internal provisions include a standard broadcast-frequency tuner, cable tuner as well as other optional inputs such as for a direct-broadcast satellite, previously recorded video material, etc. In the preferred embodiment, means are provided whereby a main or primary program channel may be linked to additional channels providing supplementary information to enhance resolution, sound quality, or to facilitate special effects.

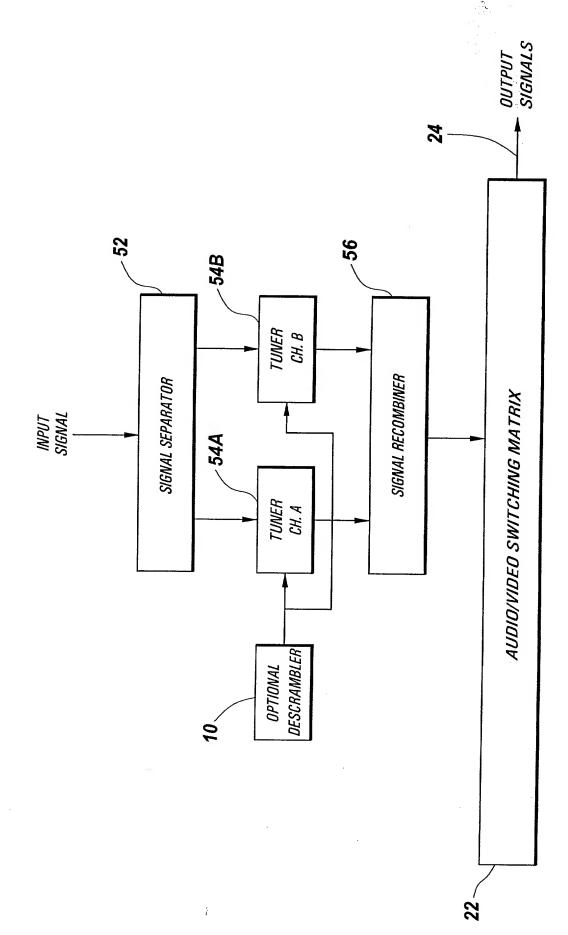
Figure 1

U.G. - 10.0

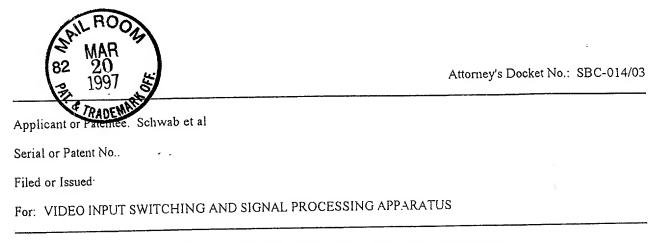


BY CLASS SUPERING THE WAS SUPERING THE W





the specification filed herewith.



VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS (37 CFR 1.9(f) and 1.27(b)) - INDEPENDENT INVENTOR

As the below named inventor, I hereby declare that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9(c) for purposes of paying reduced fees under Section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, to the Patent and Trademark Office with regard to the invention entitled VIDEO INPUT SWITCHING AND SIGNAL PROCESSING APPARATUS described in

L	applicati	ion serial no.	, mea_	
	patent n	0	, issued	
37 CFR under	not assign or license, 1.9(c) if the 37 CFR 1.9	ned, granted, conveyed or lic any rights in the invention to hat person had made the inven 9(d) or a non-profit organiza	censed and am use any person whation, or to any contion under 37 CI	under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, o could not be classified as an independent inventor under neem which would not qualify as a small business concern
under	COMMENCE	law to assign, grant, convey	,	
	no such persons	persons, concern, or organizations l	zation isted below*	
	*NOTE	Separate verified statements are re invention averring to their status	equired from each n as small entities. (3	named person, concern or organization having rights to the 37 (FR 1.27)
FIIII	NAME			
ADDE	ESS			
1001				
	ndividual	☐ Small Busines	s Concern	☐ Non-Profit Organization
		·		
FULL	NAME_		, ,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	
ADDF	RESS			
	Individual	☐ Small Busines	s Concern	☐ Non-Profit Organization
FULL ADDI	NAME _ RESS			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
			(☐ Non-Profit Organization
	Individual	☐ Small Busines	is Concern	C Ron-Liour Organization

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b)).

I hereby declare that all statements made herem of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

Barry H. Schwab	
Name of Inventor	Date 62/7/95
Signature of Inventor	Date
John G. Posa Name of Inventor	
M	Date
Signature of Aventor	
	-
Name of Inventor	
	Date
Signature of Inventor	

COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

	(ORIGINAL, DESIGN, NATIONAL STAGE OF PCT, SUPPLEMENTAL, DIVISIONAL CONTINUATION OR CIP)	,
As the b	pelow na	med inventor, I hereby declare that	
		TYPE OF DECLARATION	
This dec	claration	is the following type:	
		original design supplemental	*.
		NOTE. If the declaration is for an International Application being filed as a divisional, continuation of continuation-in-part do <u>not</u> check next item; check appropriate one of last three items.	•
		national stage of PCT	
		NOTE: If one of the following 3 items apply then complete and also attach ADDED PAGES FOR DIVISIONAL, CONTINUATION OR CIP.	*
		divisional continuation continuation-in-part (CIP)	
		INVENTORSHIP IDENTIFICATION	-
		WARNING If the inventors are each not the inventors of all the claims an explanation of the facts, inc the ownership of all the claims at the time the last claimed invention was made, should be submitted	
sole inve	entor (if o	office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name. I believe I am the couly one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:	
		VIDEO INPUT SWITCHING AND SIGNAL PROCESSING APPARATUS	
			
		SPECIFICATION IDENTIFICATION	
the spec	cification	of which: (complete (a), (b) or (c))	
(a)		is attached hereto.	
(h)		was filed on as Serial No 0 / or No , as Serial No. not yet known and (if applicable).	☐ Express Mail was amended on
	by being of a supp	(If applicable). Amendments filed after the original papers are deposited with the PTO which contain new matter are not as referred to in the declaration. Accordingly, the amendments involved are those filed with the application po- lemental declaration, are those amendments claiming matter not encompassed in the original statement of FR 167.	corded a filing date apers or, in the case
(c)		was described and claimed in PCT International Application No	filed (if any).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF REVIEW OF PAPERS AND DUTY OF CANDOR

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above. I acknowledge to the duty to disclose information

aca of any annual and		,		
which is material to p	atentability as defined in 37	, Code of Federal Regulat	ions, § 1.56	
	(also check the follo	owing items, if desired)		
likelthood that a reaso	nable examiner would cons	application, namely, infor sider it important in decidi	rmation where there is a suling whether to allow the app	bstantia olication
☐ In compliance with 1.98	this duty there is attached an	information disclosure sta	atement in accordance with	37 CFR
	PRIORITY CLA	IM (35 U.S.C. § 119)		
ntor's certificate or of an America listed below ar PCT international applic	ny PCT international applica nd have also identified belove ation(s) designating at least	ation(s) designating at leas wany foreign application(. tone country other than th	st one country other than the s) for patent or inventor's ce ne United States of America	e United ertificate filed by
	(complet	e (d) or (e))	-	
no such app	ications have been filed.			
□ such applica	tions have been filed as foll	ows.		
		Application which designated th	e US , itself claimed priority chec	k ltem (e)
(6)	MONTHS FOR DESIGN) I	PRIOR TO THIS APPLIC	'ATION	
Country (or indicate if PCT)	Application Number	Date of Filing (day, month, year)	Priority Claimed Under 37 USC 119	
			☐ Yes ☐ No	
	1		☐ Yes ☐ No	
			☐ Yes ☐ No	
			☐ Yes ☐ No	
	and which is materia likelihood that a reaso to issue as a patent, and In compliance with 1.98 claim foreign priority better's certificate or of an America listed below an exame subject matter no such application of the same subject matter NOTE: Where item (c) is ementer the details below and A. PRIOR (6) A	and which is material to the examination of this likelihood that a reasonable examiner would const to issue as a patent, and In compliance with this duty there is attached an 1.98 PRIORITY CLA: claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, Unit it of scrifficate or of any PCT international application's certificate or of any PCT international application and have also identified below in the same subject matter having a filing date before to the same subject matter having a filing date before to the same subject matter having a filing date before the same subject matter having a	and which is material to the examination of this application, namely, information of this application, namely, information of this application, namely, information disclosure as a patent, and In compliance with this duty there is attached an information disclosure stands of the st	and which is material to the examination of this application, namely, information where there is a suit likelihood that a reasonable examiner would consider it important in deciding whether to allow the application issue as a patent, and In compliance with this duty there is attached an information disclosure statement in accordance with 1.98 PRIORITY CLAIM (35 U.S.C. § 119) claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, § 119 of any foreign application(s) for sertificate or of any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the America listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's centre that the united States of America has same subject matter having a filing date before that of the application(s) of which priority is claimed. (complete (d) or (e)) no such applications have been filed. united States of America (c) is entered above and the hermational Application which designated the U.S. itself claimed priority checenter the details below and make the priority claim A. PRIOR FOREIGN/PCT APPLICATION(S) FILED WITHIN 12 MONTHS (6 MONTHS FOR DESIGN) PRIOR TO THIS APPLICATION AND ANY PRIORITY CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S. C. § 119 Country (or Application Number (day, month, year) Under 37 USC 119 Yes No Yes No

ALL FOREIGN APPLICATION(S), IF ANY FILED MORE THAN 12 MONTHS (6 MONTHS FOR DESIGN) PRIOR TO THIS U.S. APPLICATION

NOTE:

If the application filed more than 12 months from the filing date of this application is a PCT filing forming the basis for this application aftering the United States as (1) the national stage, or (2) a continuation, divisional, or continuation-in-part, then also complete ADDED PAGES TO COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR DIVISIONAL, CONTINUATION OR CIP APPLICATION for benefit of the prior U.S. or PCT applications) under 35 U.S.C. § 120.

POWER OF ATTORNEY

I hereby appoint the following attorneys and/or agents to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith

Ernest I. Gifford (Reg. No. 20,644) Allen M. Krass (Reg. No. 18,277) Irvin L. Groh (Reg. No. 17,505) Douglas W. Sprinkle (Reg. No. 27,394) Alfred L. Patmore, Jr. (Reg. No. 19,145) Douglas J. McEvoy (Reg. No. 34,385) Thomas E. Anderson (Reg. No. 31,318) Ronald W Citkowski (Reg. No. 34,732) Judith M. Riley (Reg. No. 30,311) Theresa A. Orr (Reg. No. 34,890) Ellen Cogen Lipton (Reg. No. 38,109) John G. Posa (Reg. No. 37,424)

SEND	COR	RESPO	NDEN	1CE	TO:

DIRECT TELEPHONE CALLS TO:

John G. Posa
GIFFORD, KRASS, GROH, SPRINKLE,
PATMORE, ANDERSON & CITKOWSKI, P C
280 N. Woodward Ave.
Suite 400
Birmingham, MI 48009

John G. Posa

(313) 913-9300

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

SIGNATURE(S)

Full name of sole or first inventor BARRY H. SCHWAD
Inventor's signature
DateCountry of CitizenshipUS
Residence West Bloomfield, Michigan
Post Office Address5298 Cedarhurst Drive
West Bloomfield, Michigan 48322
\mathcal{I}
Full name of second joint inventor JOHNG POSA
Inventor's signature
Date 4/7/95 // Country of Citizenship US
Residence Ann Arbor, Michigan
Post Office Address 1204 Harbrook Avenue
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103

CHECK PROPER BOX(ES) FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ADDED PAGE(S) WILICH FORM A PART OF THIS DECLARATION

Signature for third and stibsequent joint inventors. Number of plages daded

Signature by administrator(trix), executor(trix) or legal representative for deceased or incapacitated inventor. Number of pages added
* * *
Signature for inventor who refuses to sign or cannot be reached by person authorized under 37 CFR 1.47. Number of pages added

Added pages to combined declaration and power of attorney for divisional, continuation, or continuation-in-part (CIP) application. Number of pages added
* * *
Authorization of attorney(s) to accept and follow instructions from representative.
* * *
lf no further pages form a part of this Declaration then end this Declaration with this page and check the following item
This declaration ends with this page.